

## Infantry Proves Vital to Civil Military Operations



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**An Iraqi woman prepares fabric for sewing in a factory located in downtown Baghdad. The factory, once co-owned by Russians and Iraqis, uses equipment purchased in 1963 from former West Germany. In a measure to put money back into the Iraqi economy, the Civilian Provisional Authority, awarded the company a contract to make Iraqi police uniforms.**

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-Mae Bruns

39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — Military civil affairs teams are out on the

streets of Iraq working hard to correct sewage problems, increase employment opportunities, and help rebuild structures. But moving across a country where danger still

boldly loiters requires more than just good will.

As they travel the streets of Baghdad, the infantry travels right along with them to the places they need to go. They

protect and defend, so that civil affairs personnel can do their job without the added worry of dangers lurking around them.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, does several escort missions a week. Their military vehicles are strategically placed throughout the convoy and when they stop at their designated location, a chosen team acts as bodyguards for the civil affairs personnel while others remain beside the vehicles.

This particular mission was no different than most. They mounted up and rolled out the front gate of the small compound surrounded by concrete walls headed for a veterinarian clinic and a sewing factory.

While driving to their destination, the Soldier's eyes scanned for ill-omened insurgents. The loud blare of horns honking echoed down the streets as people hurriedly crossed the streets and vendors on the sidewalks sold goods.

The convoys may be risky,

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## 1-8 Cav. Helping Al Euwrech Community Help Themselves

By Pfc. Al Barrus

122nd MPAD

AL RASHID DISTRICT, Baghdad, Iraq— Soldiers of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, visited the people of Al Euwrech to pay the local workers for cleaning irrigation ditches. The irrigation project is one of many civil affairs

projects that have been started in the Al Rashid District.

Even though cleaning the mud out of the ditches is a task that could be done quicker and easier with heavy machinery, getting the job done by hand ensures that more Iraqi people are paid for the work, said Capt. Rex Blair, the commander for 1-8 Cav. Headquarters Company. The canal project employs 241 local Iraqi men

and will continue for four weeks. The workers are paid \$4 a day and their supervisors are paid \$6 a day for the canal work.

Instead of using a traditional contractor, the workers were organized by the neighborhood leader, Sheik Maleek.

"He is probably the best sheik I have in my area," Blair said. "He is good with putting information out, keeping in

touch with the people and seeing what they need."

Blair said the sheik tells them the coalition is doing a great job and welcomes the Soldiers with open arms.

"This neighborhood is the safest area I have," Blair said. "Sheik Maleek keeps all the bad people out of his area. We have never taken an [improvised explosive device] there.

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## Al Euwrech's Citizens Welcome 1-8 Cav.'s Efforts



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

**Capt. Rex Blair, commander of Headquarters Company 1-8 Cav., 1st Cavalry Division, speaks with the help of an interpreter to Sheikh Maleek, the local leader of the Al Euwrech neighborhood, in the Al Rashid District of Baghdad, about helping the people of the community.**

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The people keep their eyes open for any trouble. They all want to help us so we can help them."

With such a safe neighborhood, this project and future ones help the people of Al Euwrech become stronger and independent with the help of the coalition, Blair said.

"We know that we are committed for the whole year and people like those in Euwrech are the lifeline to bring a new and stable Iraq," 2nd Lt. John Jefferson of Company D, 1-8 Cav. said. "This project is one more way to empower the people as the new interim government gets on its feet."



**229th U.S. Army Birthday**  
June 14, 1775-2004

**6 a.m. 1st Cavalry Division Run**

**7 a.m. Cake-cutting ceremony including**  
1CD commanding general  
MG Peter Chiarelli,  
1CD CSM Richard Hernandez,  
and 1st Cav. Div.'s Oldest and Youngest Soldiers

**7 p.m. 1st Cavalry Division**  
Band concert -  
Camp Victory North  
PX Gazebo



## Escorts Help Move CA Teams

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so the Soldiers take appropriate precautions. But a little extra protection never hurts.

Psalms verses were written across a piece of battered plywood in the back of one of the military vehicles.

"My eyes are fixed on you, O sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge - do not give me over to death" read the sand-beaten sign. "Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, from the traps set by evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets while I pass by in safety."

Pvt. Brian Perry, 19, of Medford, Ore., wrote the verses months ago when his platoon

received intelligence that Muqtada's militia was ahead waiting for their convoy. He said the verses make him feel safe.

"I was scared," Perry said. "We just had a prayer with the chaplain, so I asked him if he knew any good Psalms verses."

When they rolled into Baghdad that day, anti-Iraqi forces fired bullets and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at their convoy. Perry said he paused for a moment to look at the verses and then returned fire.

"That day when we were attacked, somebody should have died - there were so many

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### Today in Cav History

**June 14**

**1775 - The Continental Congress authorized, by resolution, the creation of "The American Continental Army."**

**1951 - Full-scale operations for preparing Line Wyoming were ordered while the work on Line Kansas continued.**



### Iraqi Word of the Day

**medic mu-marr-iDh/mu-Dhem-mmid**

#### Baghdad, Iraq

##### Monday

High: 107  
Low: 77



##### Tuesday

High: 108  
Low: 77



##### Wednesday

High: 109  
Low: 78



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## 2-162 Inf. Conducts Escort Missions Despite Heat, Humidity

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RPGs," he said.

A short while after leaving the walls of Camp Cooke, they arrived at their first destination; the veterinarian clinic. Some of the infantrymen went inside with the civil affairs team and the rest remained outside with the vehicles.

Temperatures soared over a hundred degrees while they patiently waited near their Humvees.

"It's like a blow dryer in that Humvee," Perry said. "You're completely covered in sweat. You're sticky and it's humid as hell."

Heat isn't the only thing the Soldiers battle on a mission though, the weight takes a toll on their bodies.

"Your upper and lower body start to hurt," said Perry, who carried 600 rounds of ammunition for his 15-pound weapon over his 32-pound outer tactical vest. "But you keep your military bearing and you think 'this is all going to be over in another 10 months.'"

Often locals, who want to talk to the Americans, get autographs, and shake hands, inundate those who are left waiting with the vehicles and securing the area.

The Soldiers wanted to befriend, extend openness, and talk to locals, but sometimes it may be difficult to tell the difference between a friend and a foe. Still, they took the chance

and extended their hands.

"You may be shaking their hand and looking them in the face, but at the same time you're careful of the other hand," Pfc. Joe Davis, of Medford, Ore., said. "We're putting our lives on the line for these people, even if they don't see it."

The civil affairs team and the other infantry Soldiers exited the veterinarian clinic. The doctors asked for classes, possible exchange programs, medicines and computers.

One objective completed: the civil affairs team knows the clinic's needs and can see what they can do to help.

After leaving the veterinary clinic, the Soldiers jumped into their vehicles for their second stop: the sewing factory.

Entering the building, the Soldiers noticed mostly women diligently worked in the open area at antiquated sewing machines imported from former West Germany in 1963.

The factory of 600 employees has a contract with the Coalition Provisional Authority lasting through August for the production of Iraqi police uniforms, but A.M. Ghintab, the managing director for the factory, is concerned about the state of his company after August passes.

"After the American people go, what shall we do?" Ghintab asked the civil affairs team. "I don't know what we will do."

Before Saddam came to power, Ghintab traveled extensively to other countries studying the latest fashions. At one time he worked with the Italians in designing and producing suits. But after Saddam came to power and the conflict between Iran and Iraq began, he was unable to leave the country and his business suffered.

"No one could leave here," Ghintab said. "It was like a prison."

The civil affairs team, anxious to help Ghintab increase his employment opportunities, explained they would see what they could do.

"We're going to try and set up a meet between the Italian embassy and the manager," Sgt. Robert Borden, of Buffalo, N.Y., said with hope to reestablish a once robust business relationship shelved due to

Saddam's regime.

As the meeting finished, Soldiers left the building and climbed into their vehicles for the drive back to base.

They arrived safely without incident and welcomed the peaceful return.

It was only a few days ago an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated directly in front of their vehicle killing three Iraqi nationals. Just by chance, the car had made a sudden stop in attempt to change lanes. It was the same spot the civil affairs team should have been in if the vehicle in front of them had not stopped.

"That car happened to stop in the perfect position," Davis said. "It took 98 percent of the blast."

The military vehicle was sprayed with concrete and rock debris but they were alive.

"There's a higher power that likes us," Sgt. Benjamin Roth, of Myrtle Point, Ore., said pensively. "We have the suspicion we have a guardian angel."



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
**Pvt. Brian Perry, 19, of Medford, Ore., has some refreshment under the hot Middle Eastern sun. Temperatures rose to 110 degrees in Baghdad this month. Soldiers are readying themselves for the summer heat.**

**"We have the suspicion we have a guardian angel."**

**-SGT Benjamin Roth, Co. A, 2-162 Inf. 39BCT**



## Today in History

## June 14

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1777** Congress adopts the Stars and Stripes as the national flag

**1811** Harriet Beecher Stowe is born

**1877** The first Flag Day observance is held (on the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the flag)

**1949** Congress officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance

**1951** The world's first commercially produced electronic digital computer, UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer) dedicated

**1954** First nationwide civil defense drill held

**1982** After suffering through six weeks of military defeats, Argentina surrenders to Great Britain, ending the Falkland Islands War

**1994** Composer Henry Mancini dies

**1996** Ella Fitzgerald, one of the most influential singers of the big band era, dies

## Bush Jumps 13,000 Feet on 80th Birthday

► From AP

COLLEGE STATION, Texas- Former President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 80th birthday Sunday with a parachute jump from 13,000 feet over his presidential library.

He jumped in tandem with a member of an Army parachute team after officials decided the wind conditions and low clouds made it too dangerous for the 41st president to jump alone, which he did when he turned 75.

He waved as he approached a cheering crowd of about 4,000 people, including wife Barbara, his son, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

"It's been a great day," Bush said after sailing to the ground, landing and scooting a ways on his backside. "This was a day a joy and a day of wonder for the Bush family, certainly for the old guy."

Bush jumped tandem early Sunday morning in a practice run, and decided weather con-



U.S. Army via AP

**Former President George Bush, lower center, parachutes in a tandem jump with Sgt. Bryan Schnell, center, a member of the U.S. Army Golden Knights.**

ditions were too risky for a solo skydive.

He said he would like to try a solo jump again, but gave no timetable other than "soon."

Bush added that he hoped his stunt sent a message to people that "at 80 years old, you've still got a life."

Bush made his first parachute jump as a 20-year-old Navy pilot shot down over the Pacific during World War II. In 1992, he bailed out over Yuma, Ariz., fulfilling a wartime promise he made to himself that some day he'd jump from a plane for fun.



## Major League Baseball Standings

as of 06/13/04

## American League

## East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	40	21	.656	-
Boston	37	25	.597	3.5
Baltimore	27	31	.466	11.5
Toronto	28	35	.444	13
Tampa Bay	26	34	.433	13.5

## Central Division

Chicago	33	26	.559	-
Minnesota	34	28	.548	.5
Cleveland	29	31	.483	4.5
Detroit	29	33	.468	5.5
Kansas City	23	37	.383	10.5

## West Division

Oakland	37	24	.607	-
Texas	34	26	.567	2.5
Anaheim	35	27	.565	2.5
Seattle	25	36	.410	12

## National League

## East Division

Florida	35	28	.556	-
Philadelphia	32	28	.533	1.5
Atlanta	30	32	.484	4.5
New York	29	33	.468	5.5
Montreal	20	41	.328	14

## Central Division

St. Louis	36	27	.571	-
Cincinnati	34	28	.548	1.5
Houston	33	28	.541	2
Chicago	32	29	.525	3
Milwaukee	31	29	.517	3.5
Pittsburgh	24	34	.414	9.5

## West Division

Los Angeles	32	27	.533	-
San Diego	33	29	.532	-
San Francisco	32	31	.508	2
Arizona	26	37	.413	8
Colorado	21	41	.339	12.5

**Glossary** W: Wins, L: Losses, PCT: Winning Percentage, GB: Games Behind



## NBA

## FINALS

(Best of 7 series)

Game 4 - Sunday @ Detroit

Detroit 88  
Los Angeles 80  
(Detroit leads series 3-1)

## TV GUIDE



6 p.m.	I Spy/ Even Stevens	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	NASCAR Nextel Cup Series - Pocono 500 3:30 p.m.	Remember the Titans 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Battleground	Baseball Tonight 8:30 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	60 Minutes		NBA Finals Game 4: Los Angeles Lakers @ Detroit Pistons 9:30 p.m. (Delayed)	Average Joe: Hawaii
10 p.m.	Cold Case	Hell is for Heroes 10:15 p.m.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit